

Law and Multiculturalism (B001423)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Cannoot, Pieter

RE21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences\(main subject Laws\)](#)

crdts

offering

4

A

[Master of Laws in Laws](#)

4

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

emanicipation rights, rights of minorities, multicultural society, (super)diversity, pluralism

Position of the course

However we think about it, cultural and religious (super)diversity in the Belgian / European society is an irreversible reality that raises questions in many areas, including law. Based on current topics we will examine how law addresses / could address multiculturalism and (super)diversity. The discussions are framed in various theoretical perspectives.

Contents

- Theories about multiculturalism, (super)diversity and law
- Discussion of current issues related to multiculturalism, (super)diversity, and Belgian/European law (for example: education, religion in the workplace, religious food laws, religious signs, travellers, decolonisation...)

Initial competences

- Basic knowledge of Belgian, European and international law
- Good passive knowledge of the English language

Final competences

- 1 Being able to apply basic concepts concerning multiculturalism/(super)diversity and law, and theoretical frameworks for a correct contextual and contemporary interpretation of pluralistic law
- 2 A knowledge based, critical but nuanced attitude toward multicultural influence on law and the legal implications of (super)diversity in general on European societies
- 3 Ability to interpret and analyse actual trends and situations involving multiculturalism and law, and (super)diversity and law.
- 4 Identifying the ideological, religious, political and social problems that underly legal rules
- 5 Having a critical attitude towards law, on the basis of insights from complementary disciplines (inter alia sociology, ethics, history...)
- 6 Critical insight in the role and limits of law for the emanicipation of minority groups.
- 7 Critical insight in the role and limits of law for societal organisation.
- 8 Critical insight in the ways in which law addresses social developments and vice versa (co-constitution between law and society).
- 9 Making use of legal texts in Dutch, French and English in a scientific way, to analyse and solve complex legal problems.
- 10 Formulating (in writing or orally) a creative and legally substantiated opinion on a topic theme related to multiculturalism/(super)diversity and law, on the basis of a scientific and clear

analysis

- 11 Development of an intercultural awareness of the role of positionality and frames of reference for the analysis of the relation between multiculturalism/(super)diversity and law
- 12 Development and integration of cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, pluralism and tolerance in the scientific work and in the functioning as a starting lawyer
- 13 Development of an awareness of the societal role of lawyers, including with regard to issues of sustainability and diversity (which encompass issues of equality and multicultural social cohesion)

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

The aim of the seminars is that the lecturer creates added value together with students on the basis of materials previously prepared by the students. Preparation may consist of reading literature, case law, legal instruments, listening to a podcast or watching visual materials. Students are expected to actively participate in class (which will involve assignments in group) and to work independently. During the seminars, several guest lecturers will be invited based on their professional or authentic expertise in 'multiculturalism and law'. Students are encouraged to attend lectures, debates and other relevant events outside the classroom

Learning materials and price

Reader, available on Ufora
Powerpoint presentations, available on Ufora
Student notes regarding the seminars
Paper or podcast (see evaluation)

References

Course content-related study coaching

An overview of the class themes and materials is available on Ufora and will be clarified during the first class. There is possibility to ask questions during and after the lectures, via e-mail and after appointment with the lecturer or the assistant. The lecturer will provide examples of exam questions during class. Questions concerning the course contents can be asked until the final week of classes.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment open-book

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment open-book

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

The evaluation consists of several tracks:

- Track 1: students write a paper or record a podcast according to the guidelines provided by the lecturer
- Track 2: students thoroughly prepare classes and participate in a critical and constructive manner according to the guidelines provided by the lecturer
- Track 3: students organize a peer feedback conversation about their paper or podcast, according to the guidelines provided by the lecturer. The students report on their progress through a pitch.

- Track 4: Students have a conversation about the course and their assignment with the lecturer in the form of an oral open book examination.

A reliable evaluation is only possible when the student is sufficiently present during the contact moments. Unfounded absence or non-participation in the evaluation moments (including the weekly course meetings) leads to failing the course.

Resit evaluation: oral open book exam with preparation

Calculation of the examination mark

Final scores are calculated as follows:

- Track 1: 50%
- Track 2: 10%
- Track 3: 15%
- Track 4: 25%

Students who do not participate in all evaluations will receive a failing grade for this course. This means in particular that when the provisional final score would be a grade of 10/20 or more, the final score will be reduced to the absolute failing grade of 7/20.

Resit evaluation; oral open book examination: 100%

Facilities for Working Students

- No evening classes, no distance learning
- Independently studying this course is not possible
- Occasional absence can be compensated through an extra assignment